

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7544**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1344

**DATE PREPARED:** Jan 6, 1999

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Hospital staffing requirements.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Ron Sobecki

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9854

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**      **GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires a hospital with at least 100 beds to have on duty at all times at least one licensed physician who is assigned to serve only nonemergency patients. The bill prohibits a hospital from requiring a physician assigned to serve nonemergency patients to serve emergency patients during the same period.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 1999.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** There is a potential fiscal impact to this bill in the form of personnel costs for publicly funded hospitals that have to increase their staffing to provide 24 non-emergency physician coverage. There are 126 acute care hospitals in Indiana. Sixty of these have 100 or more beds and 17 have 24 hour non-emergency coverage using interns, residents, or physicians on duty within the hospital. Twenty-six of the 60 hospitals that have 100 beds or more are city-county or county hospitals that may receive some public funds.

Some hospitals feel they would have to hire 4 additional full time physicians to ensure 24 hour coverage, 365 days per year. The annual salary and benefits of a family practitioner is estimated to be approximately \$175,000. It is difficult to determine the total fiscal impact to each hospital, because some hospitals have physicians on duty part of the time, but not necessarily 24 hours per day.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** County, or city-county hospitals with more than 100 beds.

**Information Sources:** Spencer Grover, Indiana Hospital and Health Care Association, 633-4870.